

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

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P R 030815Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3928

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER THORN NAMED FORMATEUR

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0341

1. ON JUNE 1 THE GRAND DUKE NAMED PD PRESIDENT GASTON THORN FORMATEUR ON THE BASIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO HIM BY INFORMATEUR RAYMOND VOUEL (REFTEL). VOUEL REPORTED THAT TWO DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PD AND POSL DEMONSTRATED THAT THE BASIS FOR A COMMON GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM EXISTS, AND THAT A CONSENSUS ALSO DEVELOPED IN FAVOR OF THORN AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE NEW GOL. AFTER BEING NAMED FORMATEUR THORN ANNOUNCED THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND PORTFOLIOS WOULD BEGIN BETWEEN THE POSL AND PD ON JUNE 5 AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT A NEW GOL WOULD BE IN PLACE NO LATER THAN JUNE 23 (LUXEMBOURG'S NATIONAL DAY).

2. COMMENT: CHOICE OF THORN AS FORMATEUR INDICATES THAT PARTIES

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ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON COALITION. EVEN PCS SOURCES CONCEDE

THAT POSL/PD GOVERNMENT NOW MOST LIKELY ALTHOUGH A FORMER PCS STATE SECRETARY (SANTER) TOLD DCM THAT NEW COALITION WILL BE AN "UNHAPPY MARRIAGE". THORN WAS REPORTEDLY UNCOMPROMISING IN DEMANDING PRIME MINISTERSHIP FOR HIMSELF, AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL, THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOL AND SUBSTANCE OF ITS PROGRAM WILL BETTER SHOW BALANCE FINALLY ACHEIVED BETWEEN LEADERS AND PHILOSOPHIES OF BOTH PARTIES. SINCE THE POSL REMAINS LARGER THAN THE PD IN TERMS OF PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION AND ALSO WON CONSIDERABLY MORE POPULAR VOTES IN MAY 26 ELECTION, THE SOCIALISTS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO PLAY THE TRADITIONALLY MUTED ROLE OF A "JUNIOR PARTNER" IN A NEW COALITION HEADED BY THORN. FARKAS

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To: STATE
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